

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method to provide a service for a user device with a service provider, comprising:

establishing a service provisioning relationship between the user device and a bridging user device through a first wireless network;

providing a desired service for the user device with the service provider via the bridging user device and the first wireless network, and through a second wireless network that couples the bridging user device to the service provider;

while providing the service, recording charging data for the service provisioning relationship between the user device and the bridging user device; and

reporting the charging data from the bridging user device to the service provider.

2. A method as in claim 1, where at least establishing and recording use service provider trusted software running on the user device and on the bridging user device.

3. A method as in claim 1, where the first wireless network comprises a local, short range wireless network, and where the second wireless network comprises a longer range wireless network.

4. A method as in claim 1, where the first wireless network comprises a wireless local area network (WLAN), and where the second wireless network comprises a cellular wireless network.

5. A method as in claim 1, where the first wireless network comprises a Bluetooth network, and where the second wireless network comprises a cellular wireless network.

6. A method as in claim 1, where establishing includes negotiating the specifics of charging for the service provisioning relationship between the user device and the bridging user device.
7. A method as in claim 1, where recording charging data uses at least one charging metric that is negotiated between the user device and the bridging user device when establishing the service provisioning relationship.
8. A method as in claim 1, where recording charging data accounts at least for the use of the second wireless network by the bridging user device.
9. A method as in claim 1, where recording charging data accounts at least for the consumption of at least one resource of the bridging user device.
10. A method as in claim 1, where reporting occurs periodically while the service is being provided.
11. A method as in claim 1, where reporting occurs at a termination of the service being provided.
12. A method as in claim 1, where the desired service is provided during a session, and where providing the service initially establishes a charging record for the session at the service provider based at least in part on credential information obtained from the user, via the bridging user.
13. A method as in claim 12, where the credential information comprises an identification of the user device, and information that identifies the user to the service provider as being a client of the service provider.
14. A method as in claim 13, where at least the information that identifies the user to the service provider is encrypted.

15. A method as in claim 12, where the charging record for the session is uniquely identified based on a session identifier.

16. A system that provides a service for a user device with a service provider, comprising:

at least one user device comprising an interface to a first wireless network;

at least one bridging user device comprising an interface to said first wireless network and an interface to a second wireless network; and

at least one service provider reachable through said second wireless network;

where said user device, said bridging user device and said service provider execute computer code to establish a service provisioning relationship between said user device and said bridging user device through said first wireless network; to provide a desired service for said user device with said service provider via said bridging user device and said first wireless network, and through said second wireless network that couples said bridging user device to said service provider; to record charging data for the service provisioning relationship between said user device and said bridging user device; and to report the charging data from said bridging user device to said service provider.

17. A system as in claim 16, where said computer code comprises trusted software running on said user device and on said bridging user device.

18. A system as in claim 16, where said first wireless network comprises a local, short range wireless network, and where said second wireless network comprises a longer range wireless network.

19. A system as in claim 16, where said first wireless network comprises a wireless local area network (WLAN), and where said second wireless network comprises a cellular wireless network.

20. A system as in claim 16, where said first wireless network comprises a Bluetooth network, and where said second wireless network comprises a cellular wireless network.

21. A system as in claim 16, where said computer code that establishes said service provisioning relationship includes computer code for negotiating specifics of charging for said service provisioning relationship between said user device and said bridging user device using an offer-counteroffer technique.

22. A system as in claim 16, where said computer code that records charging data uses at least one charging metric that is negotiated between said user device and said bridging user device when establishing said service provisioning relationship.

23. A system as in claim 16, where said computer code that records charging data accounts at least for use of said second wireless network by said bridging user device.

24. A system as in claim 16, where said computer code that records charging data accounts at least for consumption of at least one resource of said bridging user device.

25. A system as in claim 16, where reporting occurs periodically while said service is being provided.

26. A system as in claim 16, where reporting occurs at a termination of said service being provided.

27. A system as in claim 16, where said desired service is provided during a session, and where providing said service initially establishes a charging record for said session at said service provider based at least in part on credential information obtained from said user, via said bridging user.

28. A system as in claim 27, where said credential information comprises an identification of said user device, and information that identifies said user to said service provider as being a client of said service provider.

29. A system as in claim 28, where at least said information that identifies said user to said service provider is encrypted.

30. A system as in claim 27, where said charging record for said session is uniquely identified based on a session identifier.

31. A mobile device, comprising:

a data processor coupled to a memory; and

an interface to a short range wireless network;

said memory storing computer code executable by said data processor to request a service to be provided by a service provider and to establish a service provisioning relationship between said mobile device and another device through said short range wireless network, where said another device is bidirectionally coupled to said service provider through a second wireless network, and where said service is provided for said mobile device by the service provider via said short range wireless network, said another device, and said second wireless network.

32. A mobile device as in claim 31, where said computer code that establishes said service provisioning relationship includes computer code for negotiating specifics of charging for said service provisioning relationship between said mobile device and said another device.

33. A mobile device as in claim 32, where said specifics of charging comprise use of said second wireless network by said another device.

34. A mobile device as in claim 32, where said specifics of charging comprise use of at least one resource of said another device.

35. A mobile device, comprising:

a data processor coupled to a memory;

an interface to a short range wireless network; and

an interface to a cellular wireless network;

said memory storing computer code executable by said data processor to establish a service provisioning relationship between said mobile device and another device through said short range wireless network, where said mobile device can be bidirectionally coupled to said service provider through said cellular wireless network, and where said service is provided for said another device by the service provider via said short range wireless network, said mobile device and said cellular wireless network, and where said computer code executable by said data processor further is operable to record charging data for the service provisioning relationship between said mobile device and said another device, and to report the charging data to said service provider via said cellular wireless network.

36. A mobile device as in claim 35, where said computer code that establishes said service provisioning relationship includes computer code for negotiating specifics of charging for said service provisioning relationship between said mobile device and said another device.

37. A mobile device as in claim 36, where said specifics of charging comprise use of said second wireless network by said mobile device.

38. A mobile device as in claim 36, where said specifics of charging comprise use of at least one resource of said mobile device.

39. A mobile device as in claim 35, where said mobile device reports the charging data periodically while the service is being provided.

40. A mobile device as in claim 35, where said mobile device reports the charging data

at a termination of said service being provided.

41. A mobile terminal comprising a data processor coupled to an interface to a short range wireless network, said data processor operating to request a service to be provided by a service provider and to establish a service provisioning relationship between said mobile terminal and a device through said short range wireless network, where said device is bidirectionally coupled to said service provider through another wireless network, and where said service is provided for said mobile terminal by the service provider via said short range wireless network, said device and said another wireless network.

42. A mobile terminal as in claim 41, where said data processor is further operable to negotiate charging for said service provisioning relationship between said mobile terminal and said device.

43. A mobile terminal comprising a data processor coupled to an interface to a short range wireless network and to an interface to a cellular wireless network, said data processor operable to establish a service provisioning relationship between said mobile terminal and a device through said short range wireless network, where said mobile terminal can be bidirectionally coupled to said service provider through said cellular wireless network, and where said service is provided for said device by the service provider via said short range wireless network, said mobile terminal and said cellular wireless network, and where said data processor is further operable to record charging data for the service provisioning relationship between said mobile terminal and said device, and to report the charging data to said service provider over said cellular wireless network.

44. A mobile terminal as in claim 43, where said data processor is further operable to negotiate charging for said service provisioning relationship between said mobile terminal and said device.